

IN THE DRAWINGS

Amended drawing sheets, namely, Figure Nos. 1 – 6 are separately attached herewith. With regard to Figure Nos. 1 and 2, both a replacement sheet and an annotated copy with changes shown in red are presented for the U.S. Patent Examiner's inspection.

REMARKS

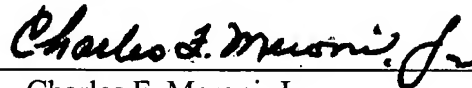
In the Office Action, the U.S. Patent Examiner has indicated that Claim Nos. 1 – 22 are pending in the subject application. The U.S. Patent Examiner has rejected Claim Nos. 1, 3 – 15, and 17 – 22 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,926,746, which issued to Smith, for the reasons stated on Page Nos. 3 – 6 of the Office Action. The U.S. Patent Examiner has rejected Claim Nos. 2 and 16 based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Smith as modified by U.S. Patent No. 5,165,9569, which issued to Barlett. The U.S. Patent Examiner has further required a new Abstract and new drawings. Applicant submits herewith an amended Abstract and new drawings, in accordance with the Examiner's requirement(s).

In response to the U.S. Patent Examiner's rejections of record, Applicant has elected to amend the currently pending claims via the independent claims and submits a newly drafted claim for the U.S. Patent Examiner's kind consideration. The U.S. Patent Examiner will note that the amendments have been incorporated into the claims in an effort to more succinctly define the subject matter Applicant regards as his invention. Care was taken not to introduce prohibitory "new matter" although certain language is newly appearing, which newly appearing language may be inherently gleaned from the subject matter as originally presented in this application. Further, certain enhancements have been made to Figure Nos. 1 and 2. In this regard, a new sheet and an annotated sheet are included for the Examiner's further consideration.

In light of the foregoing, the U.S. Patent Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider the rejections of record. It is further believed that this amended application is now in a more proper condition for allowance, and such action is kindly requested. If, after a review of this Amendment, issues remain which may be resolved by a telephone interview, such as acceptance of certain proposed further amendments, the U.S. Patent Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney, who will thereafter gladly attend to any further requests by the U.S. Patent Examiner.

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Respectfully submitted,
Attorney for Applicant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles F. Meroni, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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Annotated Sheet

